

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## WINNETT SCHOOL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

• **Mr. BAUCUS.** Mr. President, I am honored to speak to you today about a school in my home State of Montana—the Winnett School. The Department of Education recently selected the Winnett School as 1 of only 200 schools across the country to receive a Blue Ribbon. Winnett School, with just 95 students, is a wonderful example of how dedication and effort can lead to success in education.

To the students, teachers, parents, and administrators at Winnett, I congratulate you on receiving this award. Being named a Blue Ribbon School is one of the highest recognitions in our country. With 120,000 schools nationwide, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of all the schools are honored. Your school is a model of success.

America today faces a world more intensely competitive than ever in our history. The coming decades will be a race for economic leadership. If we are to succeed in a global economy, we must make education our focus. Nothing is more important than providing every Montanan with a solid education and the tools needed to succeed in life.

Winnett School should be an example to schools all over the country of what we can do if we make a real commitment to education. The students at Winnett have set the standard for excellence that we must encourage and expect at all schools.

I have always said that our Montana schools are the best in the country. And this week, the Department of Education has formally recognized you as such.

Winnett School has succeeded because of the investment that teachers, students, parents and administrators make in the importance of a high-quality education. I applaud the teachers for their dedication to making sure that every student can succeed. Your energy is impressive and should be an example of what we can do with the support and commitment from the entire community.

Your teachers go above and beyond their curriculum requirements. Each Monday the teachers meet at 8 a.m. to talk about whether any student in the whole school is at risk of falling behind. If a student is struggling, the staff together prepares a plan for the student and enlists the parents' help and cooperation. This dedication to the entire student community is evident in your students' commitment to education and achievement in school. The school dropout rate is zero and has been for some time. The last student who dropped out of school was over 10 years ago. That is way below the national dropout rate.

Not only do Winnett School students stay in school, but they excel in a rigorous curriculum. All students take 4 years of math, science, English, his-

tory, and government. Their test scores demonstrate a commitment to achievement—92 percent of sophomores scored advanced or proficient in reading and 90 percent rated advanced or proficient in math.

Students at Winnett School—you deserve this award. With your excellent education, you have no boundaries to what you can accomplish. You are the leaders of tomorrow.

Once again, congratulations on your Blue Ribbon Award. •

## CONGRATULATING MR. BRANDON WEBB

• **Mr. BUNNING.** Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mr. Brandon Webb of Ashland, KY. Mr. Webb was recently awarded the 2006 National League Cy Young Award.

Mr. Webb graduated from Paul G. Blazer High School in Ashland, KY, and went on to play baseball for the University of Kentucky. He began his Major League career with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2003 and has since become known for his devastating sinker. This season, Mr. Webb went 16-8 with a 3.10 ERA and pitched in the 2006 Major League All-Star Game.

Introduced in 1956 to honor the late Hall of Fame pitcher Cy Young, the Cy Young Award honors annually the best pitcher in each league in Major League Baseball. The prestigious award is voted on by members of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

As a former Major League pitcher, I understand the strength and commitment it takes to reach such a high level of accomplishment. To be singled out among so many great pitchers is truly an honor.

I congratulate Mr. Webb on this achievement. He is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to aspiring athletes everywhere. I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in the future. •

## 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA

• **Mr. CONRAD.** Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize a community in North Dakota that celebrated its 125th anniversary earlier this year. On February 25, 2006, the residents of Mandan kicked off a yearlong celebration of their community's history and founding.

Mandan is a vibrant community in west-central North Dakota, located along the bank of the great Missouri River in Morton County. With historic roots dating back to 1100 A.D., when the first Native American settlers arrived, Mandan is rich with history. The city of Mandan was incorporated on February 25, 1881, and named for the Mantani Indians, or "people of the bank." With the development of the railroads and the close proximity to the Missouri river, Mandan flourished and became known as "Where the West begins."

Today, with a population of more than 16,000, Mandan remains tied to the railroad, housing a major rail equipment maintenance facility. It is also home to the Hebron Brick factory, which is not only the sole surviving brick factory in the State, but is also the oldest manufacturing company of any kind in the entire State of North Dakota. Mandan is known not only for its historical roots, but also for its beautiful scenery. Mandan has become a magnet for hunters, fishermen, and outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. Mandan is also home to Fort Lincoln which once served as an important infantry and cavalry post. It is from Fort Lincoln that Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer rode out on his ill-fated expedition against the Sioux at the Little Big Horn. Fort Lincoln is also home to the On-A-Slant Mandan village which has been located there for more than 400 years.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding, Mandan residents have planned a full year's worth of events, which included a kick off party that featured local artists, a kids' carnival and a music performance that represented all 125 years worth of local music.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Mandan, ND, and its residents on the first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Mandan and all the other historic towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Mandan that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Mandan has a proud past and bright future. •

## 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THOMPSON, NORTH DAKOTA

• **Mr. CONRAD.** Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that celebrated its 125th anniversary. On July 7-9, the residents of Thompson gathered to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Thompson is a growing community in eastern North Dakota, just 10 miles south of Grand Forks. Settlers came to the area as early as 1874. With the arrival of the railroad 5 years later, more pioneers came to settle in the region. Founded in 1881 with the establishment of a post office, the community name was changed from Norton to Thompson by residents to avoid potential confusion with Norton, MN.

Thompson attracts people who like small town living but hold jobs in the nearby city. Thompson residents also celebrate the values they instill upon their children, because those are the same values taught to them years ago. The people of Thompson have worked for a sense of community and, in doing so, have established "Thompson Days,"

a time to meet neighbors and celebrate the heritage of an entire area. Thompson Days features a parade, garden tour, dances, craft shows, classic car show, horseshoe tournament, and lots of other activities.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Thompson, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Thompson and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Thompson that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Thompson has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE HAWTHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, Idahoans have a strong reputation for being staunchly patriotic and supporting our military men and women. I am proud to say that this patriotism has its roots even in our children, as evidenced by the recent penny drive held at Hawthorne Middle School in Pocatello, ID.

More than 500 seventh and eighth graders, with the help of teachers and administrators, raised \$1,000 over the course of 3 weeks to purchase special gifts for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. That \$1,000, mostly in change, required daily counting by the students and, from what I understand, taking it to the bank required multiple bags and boxes! In fact, 100,000 pennies weigh close to 700 lbs, so I am certain that it was a heavy deposit despite the fact that it wasn't all collected in pennies. This remarkable achievement and dedication to supporting our military overseas deserves recognition and congratulations. Hawthorne Middle school's success reflects a sense of civic duty and national pride, refreshing in middle school students in today's world. This is indicative of the influence of strong families and strong educators at this Idaho school. I commend them on their generosity and commitment to our troops, and present Hawthorne Middle School students, parents, and teachers as models of patriotism, civic duty, and selfless giving.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JEFF SINCLAIR

● Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Jeff Sinclair, an outstanding Scoutmaster in the State of Wisconsin who passed away October 25, 2006, after a brave battle with cancer.

Jeff's involvement with the Boy Scouts began in 1998, when he became a leader of St. Dominic's Cub Scout Pack 119. Beginning in 2001, he served as Scoutmaster for St. John Vianney's Boy Scout Troop 71, and despite his illness, he continued leading the group until his death.

During his tenure as Scoutmaster, Jeff mentored over 14 percent of his

Scouts—including both of his sons—to receive the Eagle Award, the highest rank attainable within the Boy Scouts. This is a stark contrast to the national average of 4 percent of Scouts who receive the award. Jeff's remarkable dedication and leadership to the group has earned him numerous awards and commendations, and I believe he deserves our recognition as well.

Jeff was also accepted as a member of the Boy Scout prestigious Order of the Arrow Honor Society, and his sons followed in his footsteps to attain the distinction. Clearly, not only did Jeff commit himself to serving others, but he inspired those around him to do the same.

Born on March 9, 1960, in Milwaukee to Dr. Eugene and Jean Sinclair, Jeff was an accomplished individual who dedicated himself to helping others. In 1983 he earned a business degree from Marquette University, and for the next several years, he used his skills and expertise to serve the State of Wisconsin through the Department of Revenue.

While Jeff was successful and well regarded in his career and throughout Boy Scouts, his greatest priorities were his family and his faith. A loving husband to wife Kathy and a dedicated father to four children—Matt, Andy, Maggie and Emma—Jeff found great joy in encouraging and supporting their endeavors. In addition to his devoted involvement with his sons' Boy Scout troop, Jeff often assisted with his daughters' soccer teams. He was also very active in his home parish, St. Dominic's.

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to remember Jeff Sinclair for his dedication to his family, church, and community. Undoubtedly, he was a great friend, mentor, and source of joy to countless individuals throughout the years, and he will be missed.

Mr. President, please join me in offering deepest sympathy to his wife, children, and parents. May they find peace and comfort knowing that Jeff's legacy of serving, teaching, and empowering others will last far into the future that this world is a better place because of him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN R. GANTZ

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I recognize Dr. John R. Gantz for his 43 years of distinguished service to the United States of America. Dr. Gantz has provided faithful service to his Nation as a soldier, educator and as chief of the Troops to Teachers Program. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Gantz earned a Bachelor of Science degree from East Stroudsburg University, a Master's Degree in Adult Education from George Washington University, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Southern California.

After serving in the infantry with the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, he taught mathematics and science for the Job Corps in New Jersey. He then began his

civil service career as an education adviser in Virginia, followed by two similar assignments in Korea. During this time, he has served as an education specialist, Headquarters Department of the Army; Director of Education, U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy; Deputy Director of Education, U.S. Army Forces Command, Atlanta Georgia; and Deputy Director of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, DANTES.

In 1984, Dr. Gantz was selected as the DANTES European adviser. In this position, he provided guidance and training to education professionals supporting military personnel throughout the United States-European military commands. He has served on numerous advisory boards and been selected to participate in many national conferences as an expert in education programming. This year he was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in Dallas, TX.

Since 1994, Dr. Gantz has been the first and only chief of the federally authorized Troops to Teachers Program. Under his dynamic and innovative leadership, over 9,000 servicemembers from the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy have made the transition from military careers to become K-12 public education classroom teachers and school administrators. His superb dedication to develop a unique program that recruits special education, mathematics and science teachers for high-needs, low-income schools has provided countless students the benefit of learning with "real world" mentors and role models. His dedication to academic excellence, complete selflessness and visionary professionalism has brought great credit not only upon himself, but also upon the Troops to Teachers Program and public education everywhere.

I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating Dr. Gantz for his dedicated service to our country. He has made a significant difference in both the U.S. Army and as chief of the Troops to Teachers Program. Once again, I thank Dr. Gantz for his many years of devoted service.●

#### EBENEZER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to congratulate an outstanding and historic church from my home State of Michigan. This year, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church of Detroit, celebrates 135 years of service, learning and faith. This milestone provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on the rich history of this institution and to remember the many individuals who played an integral part in its success.

The name "Ebenezer" means "stone of help," and for 135 years, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church has truly exemplified this meaning. Ebenezer was established by a small